



Town of Garrett Park
PO Box 84
4600 Waverly Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

Regular Meeting of Town Council
Public Teleconference

Town Council Meeting: January 10, 2022

MINUTES

Call to Order (7:32 PM) – Mayor Kacky called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. Present on the call were Councilmembers Gerilee Bennett, Dona Dobosz, Mario Grande, Stephen Paczkowski, and Phil Schulp. Also on the call were Interim Town Manager Barb Matthews, Town Assistant Elizabeth Henley, and approximately seven attendees.

Approval of Agenda (7:33 PM) – The agenda was amended to add Town Manager Matthews' name to the 2022 Town Election item under the New Business section of the agenda. The amended agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes (7:36 PM) – The December 13, 2021, Town Council Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Presentation by Residents (7:37 PM)

- Elizabeth King, a resident of Argyle Avenue, shared her concerns regarding the Argyle sledding hill and asked that the Town staff clarify related operational matters.
- Jack Mandel, a resident of Rokeby Avenue, requested that book clubs and other organizations based in Garrett Park and the Estates be allowed to use Town Hall at no cost during the winter months given the ongoing pandemic.

New Business (7:46 PM)

- *2022 Town Hall Election* – Mayor Kacky noted that election judges had been appointed in 2021 to serve a two-year term; she would be reaching out to the three individuals to see if they were willing to serve for the 2022 Town election. Town Manager Matthews informed the Town Council that a decision would need to be made in the next 30 days whether to hold the election in-person or by vote by mail. The Town Council informally endorsed holding the 2022 election using vote by mail.
- *Lerner Enterprises and Access to White Flint Plaza* – Mayor Kacky stated that the shared-use sidewalk that Lerner Enterprises plans to close is heavily utilized and provides area residents with important access to White Flint Recreational Park and the White Flint Shopping Plaza. Execution of a use license agreement by which Montgomery County would indemnify Lerner Enterprises is under discussion. She expressed her appreciation to Maryland Delegate Al Carr and Montgomery County Councilmember Evan Glass for their engagement in the matter.

Town Updates (7:58 PM)

- *American Rescue Plan* – Councilmember Dobosz thanked the many individuals who offered to serve on the Recovery Funds Task Force. The Task Force’s work will get underway in the near future. Councilmember Dobosz then shared that the Treasury Department had issued the Final Rule on the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, and that she would be participating in a call with the Town Attorney, the Mayor, and the Town Manager later in the week.
- *Stormwater* – Councilmember Schulp had no report.
- *Archives* – Councilmember Grande stated that the Town Archivist is working to compile and organize records pertaining to streets and roads. Additionally, she is organizing and cataloguing several new donations to the archives, including digital images of former Town Mayors from former resident and photographer Les Henig.
- *Strathmore Redevelopment at St. Angela Hall* – Councilmember Bennett stated that the County public hearing related to the proposed redevelopment was postponed until January 31, 2022 and would continue on February 1 and 2, if needed. She then asked her colleagues for their thoughts on the Town retaining outside expertise to provide technical assistance. Mayor Kacky and the members of the Town Council endorsed Councilmember Bennett’s suggestion.
- *Waverly and Oxford Sidewalks* – Councilmember Schulp stated that the bid package for the project had been issued and was available on the Town website. Bids are due February 1, 2022. Councilmember Schulp noted that there is a small segment of Waverly not included in the bid package as more detailed engineering work is required.
- *Arboretum Committee* – Councilmember Bennett noted a recent issue regarding a tree removal by WSSC. The Arboretum Committee will be working in coordination with the Town Office to clarify the language of the Comprehensive Arboretum Plan regarding WSSC work. Councilmember Bennett stated that the Town Arborist is working with Town staff on proposals for tree pruning and removals in various areas of Garrett Park, including along Strathmore Avenue. Committee Member Adam Darkins is coordinating with Town staff on a pilot project for removing invasive vines from Town-owned trees.
- Mayor Kacky stated that she would be issuing a call for volunteers to serve on Town committees. Member terms have expired on a several committees (Arboretum, Historic Preservation, and Land Use), and there are vacancies on the Archives Committee.

Town Manager’s Financial Report & Town Manager’s Report (8:22 PM) – Town Manager Matthews summarized the December Financial Report and Town Manager Report. She also provided information on the County’s rapid COVID test distribution plan and the County Council’s consideration of a “vaccine passport.” Town Manager Matthews informed the Mayor and Town Council that she would be sending out a new Doodle Poll for the FY 2023 Budget Retreat, as the first round of dates proved unworkable.

Following the Town Manager’s Report, Councilmember Bennett thanked Ms. Matthews for sending out information about the Town’s requirement for clearing snow from sidewalks. Councilmember Bennett suggested that notices be provided to individual property owners who have sidewalks in front of their homes.

Mayor Kacky asked Councilmember Schulp about the status of the task force on outside dining options. Councilmember Schulp stated that he would be forming the task force in the near future.

Mayor Kacky informed the Town Council that she and Town Manager Matthews would be proposing a new position in the FY 2023 budget. Information justifying the need for additional staffing would be shared with the Town Council. Mayor Kacky stated that she would be forming a budget work group comprised of resident volunteers. Mayor Kacky stated that the work group would provide her with much needed support as well as provide residents with insight into how the Town's budget is developed.

Mayor Kacky adjourned the meeting at 8:33 PM.

Signed



Barbara B. Matthews
Clerk-Treasurer

